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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP**  
**INTELLIGENCE REPORT**

**COUNTRY** Germany (Russian Zone)

**DATE:**

**INFO.**

**SUBJECT** Tank Designing in Berlin under the Russians

**DIST.** 26XIX September 1947  
50X1-HUM

**ORIGIN**

**PAGES** 2  
**SUPPLEMENT**

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STATE	WAR	NAVY	JUSTICE	AAF					

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1. The NKTM, which was renamed "Mintrensmasch" (Ministry of Transport and Machine Construction, Germany) as of 1 February 1947, has its headquarters for the Soviet Zone of Germany at Berlin/Baumschulenweg, Rodelbergweg 6, 2nd floor, where it has been located since at least January 1946.
2. Colonel Tombovzev, a statistician and professor in private life, is in charge of this department, with Lt. Colonel Pokrovski as deputy. A total of six Soviet officers work at Baumschulenweg and live on the premises.
3. In 1946 the NKTM was concerned with compiling blue-prints, data, etc., of German locomotives, rolling stock, machine tools, tools, industrial methods, and signal equipment. This data was worked out by the fifteen Germans employed there and then translated into Russian. German personalities are as follows:
  - a. Berg : In charge of the German technicians.
  - b. Dessler :  
Translator of technical articles.
  - c. Regan : In charge of the drawing office, engineer by profession, employed by the Russians since August 1945. Drawing office at present consists of twelve Germans.
  - d. Sonneck : Engineer.
  - e. Lichtenberger : Was formerly in charge of photographic archives of Daimler-Benz, Marienfelde.

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These technicians are now doing research on welding.

4. The Baumschulenweg premises belonged to the firm Nordbau, Berlin-Niederschönnewide, Berliner Str., the majority of whose employees have been retained by the Russians. This firm was a branch of the Maybach-Motor Works at Friedrichshafen, and during the war delivered tank engines to Daimler-Benz at Marienfelde and Alkett at Borsigwalde. Nordbau has branches at G8rlitz, Zittau (Wumag), Zschopau, Chemnitz, and Wernigerode (Phänomen) and, although the present activities of these firms are not known, various employees appear from time to time at Baumschulenweg.

5. Within the framework of the NKTM the Russians began in early 1946 to set up a section of German tank designers. Their job was initially to write up German and foreign tank development from the end of World War I to the end of World War II. Some documents were available from the Daimler-Benz archives and the H.W.A. The main H.W.A. archives, however, were moved prior to the capitulation to the Kummersdorf Firing Range, where they were found and sent to Moscow.

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6. Major Illin is in charge of this sub-section. [redacted] an expert on tank construction. German personalities are as follows:

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- a. Ing. Boes : Worked with the H.W.A. from 1920. Towards the end of war he was in charge of archives of foreign armored vehicles. With NKTM since January 1946.
- b. Dipl. Ing. Knychalla: Tank designer since 1916. Worked for Vakraft-Versuchsabteilung der Inspektion der Kraftfahrtruppen, on construction of armored cars, automobiles, and truck models 1, 2 and 3. Constructed and developed tank turrets for H.W.A., last job being turret of Tiger II. Joined NKTM in January 1946.
- c. Ludwig : Chief expert on gears in the H.W.A. Over 70, but has applied to go to the USSR.
- d. Spies : Specialist on tracks and "Hohlkurbeln". Ten years experience with H.W.A.
- e. Thiede : Was at tank testing station in Kummersdorf. Track specialist.
- f. Kunze : Chief engineer for Daimler-Benz. Turret specialist.
- g. Wunderlich, Schmelz, and Schneider.

7. In early May 1947, the Russians requested this group of tank designers to develop a tank with the following requirements:

- |               |              |                     |                     |
|---------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| a. Weight     | : 50 tons    | d. Ground clearance | : 500 mm.           |
| b. Max. speed | : 55 Km.p.h. | e. Suspension       | : "Staffellaufwerk" |
| c. Breadth    | : 3.300 m.   |                     |                     |

[redacted] Comment: The above requirements are almost identical with those of the heavy "Panther" tanks.

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8. [redacted] this tank group will shortly be moving to a villa in Niederschönnewide.

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